

9. FY 2021 Progress

【Nara Institute of Science and Technology】

Common Indicators and Targets

Internationalization

○ Strategic student recruitment using NAIST Overseas Offices

NAIST is using its overseas offices established in Indonesia and Thailand as hubs for education/research collaboration in Asia to actively recruit international students. In 2021, these activities continued to be all-online due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions. The Online NAIST Study Abroad Fair 2021 was held focusing on students from our overseas partner institutions and, with our overseas offices, etc. cooperation, roughly 110 participants met with NAIST faculty and students (Oct. 2021). Also, the establishment of the Thai

Virtual Office was decided to ensure the continuation of activities in difficult global conditions such the COVID-19 pandemic and 6 Thai student assistants were appointed to support office activities from FY2022.

○ Symposium held in collaboration with NAIST Overseas Office, etc.

A commemorative symposium for the NAIST Indonesia Office 6th anniversary was held with 150 attendees mainly from our 8 Indonesian partner institutions, including the IPB University President and many NAIST Indonesian alumni. In the symposium, NAIST faculty who furthered collaborative research with Indonesian and recruited Indonesian students participated and shared the results of their education/research collaborations over the years. (Aug. 2021)

University reform

○ Strengthened career support system through positioning of UEA

Based on the new UEA personnel system (contract-to-permanent specialized staff employment) created in 2017, a UEA was employed in the Division for Career Development support for international students and the career development support for Japanese and international students was improved and expanded.

○ Division for Innovation Education established

The Division for Innovation Education was established with a Division director and a Specially-appointed Professor in April 2021 to plan and hold education programs focusing on “technician development”, “entrepreneur education”, and “innovation education”, and FD projects.

○ Online overseas staff development (SD) training

Due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions the overseas SD training was held online for the first time ever to strengthen staff's global understanding. Three staff members participated, investigating subjects they individually chose at Hawaii Tokai International College and Macquarie University, and shared the results of this training to contribute to the globalization of the administration.

Education reform

○ Center for Digital Green-innovation established

With aim of solving global-scale environment/food supply problems and creating a rich, sustainable society, the Center for Digital Green-innovation (CDG) was established under the principles of bioeconomy, fusing NAIST's world-class research in plant biology and microbiology fields with digital technologies. (Jan. 2021) CDG will create next generation science and technology, and disseminate the achievements to society. In Fy2021, CDG held the Social Implementation Workshop for Researchers series and SDGs x CDG Seminars to promote NAIST's policies and efforts to contribute to innovation and SDGs on and off campus. Also, CDG prepared for the establishment of an education program to foster human resources to lead digital green science and technology and innovation.

○ Online Overseas Faculty Development Training

The Overseas faculty Development Training is held to improve faculty member's abilities to instruct, conduct research and administrate in English, and to improve the quality of education and classes. Once again, due to travel restrictions, this year's Overseas Faculty Development Training was held online. Six faculty members learned about active learning, class planning methods and increasing student involvement through discussions.

○ International FD Webinar

NAIST invited Dr. Kenneth C. Burtis (Faculty Advisor to the Chancellor and Provost, UC Davis) to give an online seminar titled “Lessons learned from my journey through UC Davis administration: advice for future academic leaders”, to encourage all NAIST members to participate in the planning/achievement of NAIST's future. (Aug. 2021) In the first half, Dr. Burtis introduced leadership lessons he learned at UC Davis and followed this with an exchange/presentation of opinions concerning President's Vision 2030. (See below)



〈Virtual Office Student Assistant Appointment Ceremony〉



〈Indonesia 6th anniversary symposium〉



〈 FD seminar with Dr. Burtis 〉

■ University's own indicators and targets

【Nara Institute of Science and Technology】

○ Campus-wide career development support

To increase momentum of Japanese students going abroad, the Study Abroad and Global Career Seminar was held with speakers introducing their study abroad/international internship experiences along with overseas opportunities. (April 2021) Through the regular holding of these events and study abroad consultations, students' desire to study abroad hasn't weakened and in FY2021 5 students were chosen for the long-term study abroad support program and 2 of them studied abroad. (Université Paris-Saclay & University of Bonn) Also, for international student career support, 2 experienced consultants were appointed and 362 English appointments were held. Discussions with NAIST graduates in Japanese companies, study groups with companies looking for international recruits and 1-day visiting programs were held as well. As a result, international student job placement was high (92% for master's graduates and 100% for doctoral graduates) and the percentage for domestic job placement in industry and academia was 31.5%.

■ Featured initiatives based on university characteristics

○ Strengthened double degree programming

NAIST concluded its first Master's double degree program with Kasetsart University based on active education & research exchange through internships etc. The structure for an organized international collaborative education was reviewed and preparation for the program to begin in FY2023 has continued. An online signing ceremony was held with the 2 presidents, JICA officials and the Thai Consul General attending. (July 2021)



〈Presidents' signing the agreement online〉

For other continuing double degree programs, 3 students in FY2021 and 1 student in April 2022 entered the program. (Université Paul Sabatier: 1 student sent and 1 received, Université Paris-Saclay: 1 student sent and 1 received) As of April 2022, 9 students (5 sent and 4 received) are studying as double degree program students are studying in an international collaborative environment, receiving collaborative guidance.

○ Towards achieving a global campus

An employee housing building was renovated to create a share-type dormitory to promote interaction between Japanese and international students and opened in April 2021. Also, the NAIST International Student Ambassador Program was expanded from its original purpose of peer counseling for student support to include planning and holding events and participating in PR activities. In summer of 2021, 14 students were appointed Ambassadors after completing training. Ambassadors have been active both on and off campus, giving advice about presenting in English to local high school students, participating in online recruiting fairs, giving pre-departure orientations, etc.



〈Student Ambassadors receiving their certificates〉



〈Share-type student dormitory〉

○ Measures for increased collaboration with overseas partner institutions

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, visits to overseas partner institutions have not been possible for some time. With this in mind, online presidential visits to institutions with which NAIST has active education and research exchange (University of Indonesia, Gadjah Mada University, IPB University, Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines Diliman) to introduce the new executive administration. In these visits, discussions concerning future collaborations were held with partnership administrators, including introductions of NAIST current education and research.

■ Additional description

○ President's vision 2030

President's Vision 2030 was released in 2021 as NAIST celebrated its 30th anniversary, to create a new graduate school format under the idea of "Co-creation" as we head towards 2030, which described the strategic effort and measures that should be prioritized to achieve this. President's Vision 2030 contains 4 visions for the direction of NAIST in 2030, with 16 mid- long-term goals to achieve these visions and 16 strategies for planning and achieving the visions and goals.



〈President's Vision 2030〉